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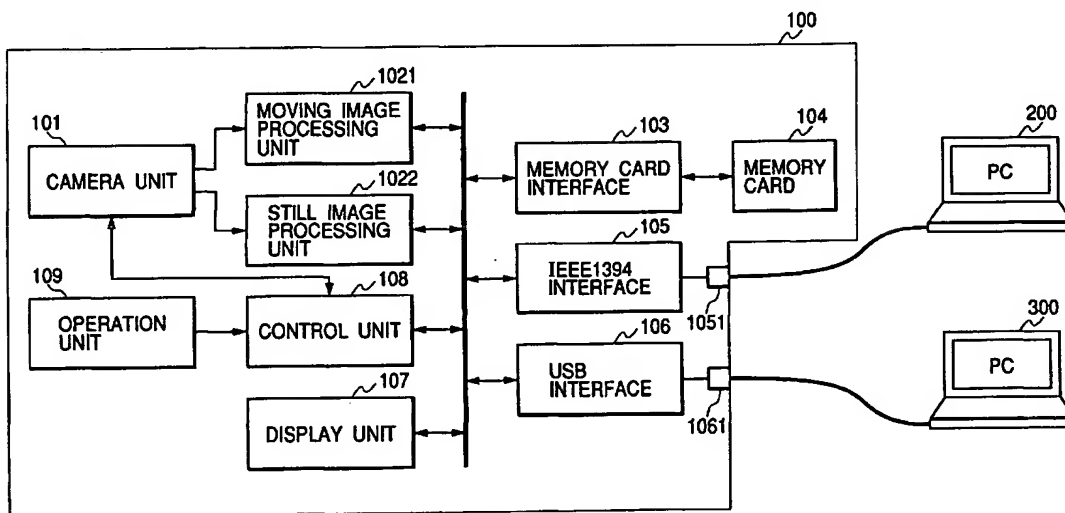
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA [JP/JP]; 3-30-2, Shimomaruko, Ohta-ku, Tokyo 146-8501 (JP).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): ONO, Tachio [JP/JP];
- (74) Agents: OKABE, Masao et al.; No. 602, Fuji Bldg., 2-3, Marunouchi 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005 (JP).
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(54) Title: STORAGE APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD



(57) Abstract: To provide a storage apparatus that makes it possible to exclusively control external apparatuses that access a removable medium such as a memory card. In the case where a first external apparatus connected to a 1394 port accesses the memory card, the storage apparatus sets a USB port in a disabled state. In the case where a second external apparatus connected to the USB port accesses the memory card, the storage apparatus sets the 1394 port in the disabled state. As a result, the storage apparatus exclusively controls access to the memory card.

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DESCRIPTION

STORAGE APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD

5 TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an apparatus, which has a plurality of digital interfaces, and a control method applied to the apparatus.

10 BACKGROUND ART

Currently, a digital video camera is available which has not only an IEEE1394 interface pursuant to the IEEE1394-1995 standard (see IEEE Std 1394-1995, IEEE Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus, 15 Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.) but also a USB interface pursuant to the USB 1.1 standard (see Universal Serial Bus Specification Revision 1.1, September 23, 1998).

However, such a digital video camera suffers 20 from a problem in that although an external apparatus connected to the USB interface is capable of accessing a memory card, an external apparatus connected to the IEEE1394 interface is not capable of accessing the memory card.

25 In the case where the digital video camera is constructed so that not only the external apparatus connected to the USB interface but also the external

apparatus connected to the IEEE1394 interface are capable of accessing the memory card, there arises a problem in that it is required to prevent a situation where the two external apparatuses access the memory card at the same time. That is, there arises a problem in that it is required to exclusively control the external apparatuses that access the memory card. This problem is not limited to the memory card and similarly arises even for a removable medium other than the memory card.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to overcome the above-described drawbacks.

Another object of the present invention is to make it possible to exclusively control external apparatuses that access a removable medium such as a memory card.

A storage apparatus that is one of preferred embodiment modes according to the present invention includes a first digital interface and a second digital interface, the first digital interface having a first port and the second digital interface having a second port, in which: the second port is set in a disabled state if a first external apparatus connected to the first port accesses a removable medium; and the first port is set in the disabled

state if a second external apparatus connected to the second port accesses the removable medium.

A control method that is one of preferred embodiment modes according to the present invention is a control method applied to a storage apparatus including a first digital interface and a second digital interface, the first digital interface having a first port and the second digital interface having a second port, in which: the second port is placed in a state where electrical connection is impossible if a first external apparatus connected to the first port accesses a removable medium; and the first port is placed in a state where electrical connection is impossible if a second external apparatus connected to the second port accesses the removable medium.

A storage apparatus that is one of preferred embodiment modes according to the present invention includes a first digital interface and a second digital interface, the first digital interface having a first port and the second digital interface having a second port, in which: if the first digital interface receives a predetermined command, the second port is set in a disabled state; and if the second digital interface receives the predetermined command, the first port is set in the disabled state.

A control method that is one of preferred embodiment modes according to the present invention

is a control method including a first digital interface and a second digital interface, the first digital interface having a first port and the second digital interface having a second port, in which: if
5 the first digital interface receives a predetermined command, the second port is set in a disabled state; and if the second digital interface receives the predetermined command, the first port is set in the disabled state.

10 Still other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become fully apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the main construction of a storage apparatus (digital video camera 100) in an embodiment of the present invention;

20 FIG. 2 is a flowchart showing a processing procedure of the storage apparatus (digital video camera 100) in the embodiment;

FIG. 3 shows an example of a screen indicating that a second external apparatus (PC 300) in the
25 embodiment accesses a memory card 104 via a USB interface 106; and

FIG. 4 shows an example of a screen indicating

that a first external apparatus (PC 200) in the embodiment accesses the memory card 104 via an IEEE1394 interface 105.

5 BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described below with reference to the drawings.

FIG. 1 shows the construction of a storage
10 apparatus in this embodiment.

In FIG. 1, a digital video camera (hereinafter referred to as the "DVC") 100 is a storage apparatus of this embodiment and includes a plurality of digital interfaces. As shown in FIG. 1, the DVC 100
15 includes a camera unit 101, a moving image processing unit 1021, a still image processing unit 1022, a memory card interface 103, a memory card 104, an IEEE1394 interface 105, a USB interface 106, a display unit 107, a control unit 108, and an
20 operation unit 109.

The camera unit 101 takes, when a still image photographing mode is set, an optical image of a subject and generates still image data. Also, when a moving image photographing mode is set, the camera
25 unit 101 takes optical images of a subject and generates moving image data.

The moving image processing unit 1021 converts

the moving image data generated by the camera unit 101 into a moving image file in a predetermined file format (MPEG-4 format, for instance). The moving image file generated by the moving image processing unit 1021 is supplied to the memory card interface 103 and is written into the memory card 104.

The still image processing unit 1022 converts the still image data generated by the camera unit 101 into a still image file in a predetermined file format (JPEG format, JPEG-2000 format, for instance). The still image file generated by the still image processing unit 1022 is supplied to the memory card interface 103 and is written into the memory card 104.

The memory card interface 103 has a function of writing the moving image file or still image file into the memory card 104 and a function of reading the moving image file or still image file stored in the memory card 104. The moving image file or still image file read from the memory card 104 is supplied to the IEEE1394 interface 105 or the USB interface 106.

The IEEE1394 interface 105 is a digital interface pursuant to the IEEE1394-1995 standard, which is one of standards related to a serial bus, or its extended standard (IEEE1394a-2000 standard (see IEEE Std 1394a-2000, IEEE Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus-Amendment 1) or the like).

The IEEE1394 interface 105 has one 1394 port 1051, as shown in FIG. 1. In this embodiment, it is assumed that the maximum data transfer rate of the IEEE1394 interface 105 is 100 Mbps.

5 The USB interface 106 is a digital interface pursuant to the USB 1.1 standard, which is one of standards related to a serial bus, or its extended standard (USB 2.0 standard (see Universal Serial Bus Specification Revision 2.0, April 27, 2000) or the
10 like). The USB interface 106 has one USB port 1061, as shown in FIG. 1. In this embodiment, it is assumed that the maximum data transfer rate of the USB interface 106 is 12 Mbps.

 The display unit 107 displays the still image
15 file or moving image file read from the memory card 104. The display unit 107 also displays information showing an operation mode set in the DVC 100, an operation state of the DVC 100, a state of the 1394 port 1051, a state of the USB port 1061, and the like.

20 The control unit 108 includes a memory in which there is stored a control program for controlling various functions of the DVC 100, a microcomputer that executes the control program stored in the memory, and the like. Note that it is assumed that
25 the memory of the control unit 108 also stores a control program for executing a flowchart shown in FIG. 2.

The operation unit 109 includes switches with which the various functions of the DVC 100 are operated. For instance, the operation unit 109 includes a mode switching switch with which there is performed switching between operation modes of the DVC 100, a still image photographing switch with which there is designated the photographing of a still image to be stored in the memory card 104, a moving image photographing switch with which there is designated the photographing of a moving image to be stored in the memory card 104, a menu switch with which there is invoked a menu screen through which various settings of the DVC 100 are changed, and the like. With the mode switching switch, it is possible to select a memory reproduction mode that is one of the operation modes of the DVC 100. This memory reproduction mode is an operation mode in which the still image file or moving image file stored in the memory card 104 is reproduced or is sent to an external apparatus.

A personal computer (hereinafter referred to as the "PC") 200 is a first external apparatus in this embodiment and it is possible to connect this PC 200 to the 1394 port 1051. In the case where the PC 200 is connected to the 1394 port 1051, the PC 200 sends a predetermined command to the DVC 100, thereby informing the DVC 100 that the PC 200 is an external

apparatus that is capable of accessing the memory card 104.

A personal computer (hereinafter referred to as the "PC") 300 is a second external apparatus in this embodiment and it is possible to connect this PC 300 to the USB port 1061. In the case where the PC 300 is connected to the USB port 1061, the PC 300 sends a predetermined command to the DVC 100, thereby informing the DVC 100 that the PC 300 is an external apparatus that is capable of accessing the memory card 104.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart showing a processing procedure of the DVC 100. The flowchart shown in FIG. 2 is executed in the case where the operation mode set in the DVC 100 becomes the memory reproduction mode.

In step S201, in the case where the operation mode set in the DVC 100 becomes the memory reproduction mode, the control unit 108 shifts to a main mode. After shifting to the main mode, the control unit 108 sets the 1394 port 1051 and the USB port 1061 in an enabled state. In the case where the 1394 port 1051 is set in the enabled state, the PC 200 is placed in a state where connection with the 1394 port 1051 is possible physically and electrically. Also, in the case where the USB port 1061 is set in the enabled state, the PC 300 is

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placed in a state where connection with the USB port 1061 is possible physically and electrically.

In step S202, the control unit 108 judges whether the PC 300 is connected to the USB port 1061.

5 It is possible to detect whether the PC 300 is connected to the USB port 1061 using a plug-and-play function of the USB interface 106. In the case where the PC 300 is connected to the USB port 1061, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S203. On
10 the other hand, in the case where no apparatus is connected to the USB port 1061, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S208.

In step S203, the control unit 108 judges whether a predetermined command is received by the
15 USB interface 106. In the case where the predetermined command is received by the USB interface 106, the control unit 108 judges that the PC 300 is an apparatus that is capable of accessing the memory card 104. In this case, the control unit
20 108 starts processing in step S204. On the other hand, in the case where the predetermined command cannot be received, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S208.

In step S204, the control unit 108 sets the
25 1394 port 1051 in a disabled state, thereby making it impossible for the PC 200 to establish electrical connection with the 1394 port 1051. When the 1394

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port 1051 is set in the disabled state, the PC 200 becomes incapable of accessing the memory card 104 via the IEEE1394 interface 105. Note that in the case where the 1394 port 1051 is set in the disabled
5 state, the IEEE1394 interface 105 prohibits supplying a bias to a TPA line and a TPA* line of the 1394 port 1051.

In step S205, the control unit 108 shifts from the main mode to the USB mode and allows the PC 300
10 to access the memory card 104 via the USB interface 106. As a result of this operation, the PC 300 becomes capable of accessing the memory card 104 and reading a desired still image file or moving image file from the memory card 104. Note that after
15 shifting to the USB mode, the control unit 108 displays a screen shown in FIG. 3 on the display unit 107 in order to explicitly show a user a current operation mode of the DVC 100, a current operation state of the DVC 100, and a fact that the USB
20 interface 106 is set in the enabled state.

In step S206, after shifting to the USB mode, the control unit 108 judges whether the PC 300 is disconnected from the USB port 1061 physically or electrically. It is possible to detect whether the
25 PC 300 is disconnected from the USB port 1061 physically or electrically using the plug-and-play function of the USB interface 106. In the case where

the user pulls a cable connecting the DVC 100 to the PC 300 out of the USB port 1061, the USB interface 106 automatically detects a situation where the PC 300 is disconnected from the USB port 1061 physically and electrically. Also, when the PC 300 is powered off, the USB interface 106 automatically detects a situation where the PC 300 is disconnected from the USB port 1061 electrically. In the case where the PC 300 is disconnected from the USB port 1061 physically or electrically, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S207.

In step S207, the control unit 108 shifts from the USB mode to the main mode. After shifting to the main mode, the control unit 108 returns the 1394 port 1051 to the enabled state and starts processing in step S202.

In step S208, the control unit 108 judges whether the PC 200 is connected to the 1394 port 1051. It is possible to detect whether the PC 200 is connected to the 1394 port 1051 using a plug-and-play function of the IEEE1394 interface 105. In the case where the PC 200 is connected to the 1394 port 1051, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S209. On the other hand, in the case where no apparatus is connected to the 1394 port 1051, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S202.

In step S209, the control unit 108 judges

whether a predetermined command is received by the IEEE1394 interface 105. In the case where the predetermined command is received by the IEEE1394 interface 105, the control unit 108 judges that the PC 200 is an apparatus that is capable of accessing the memory card 104. In this case, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S210. On the other hand, in the case where the predetermined command cannot be received, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S202.

In step S210, the control unit 108 sets the USB port 1061 in a disabled state, thereby making it impossible for the PC 300 to establish electrical connection with the USB port 1061. When the USB port 1061 is set in the disabled state, the PC 300 becomes incapable of accessing the memory card 104 via the USB interface 106. Note that in the case where the USB port 1061 is set in the disabled state, the USB interface 106 prohibits pull-up of a D+ line and a D- line of the USB port 1061.

In step S211, the control unit 108 shifts from the main mode to the 1394 mode and allows the PC 200 to access the memory card 104 via the IEEE1394 interface 105. As a result of this operation, the PC 200 becomes capable of accessing the memory card 104 and reading a desired still image file or moving image file from the memory card 104. Note that after

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shifting to the 1394 mode, the control unit 108 displays a screen shown in FIG. 4 on the display unit 107 in order to explicitly show a user a current operation mode of the DVC 100, a current operation state of the DVC 100, and a fact that the IEEE1394 interface 105 is set in the enabled state.

In step S212, after shifting to the 1394 mode, the control unit 108 judges whether the PC 200 is disconnected from the 1394 port 1051. It is possible to detect whether the PC 200 is disconnected from the 1394 port 1051 physically or electrically using the plug-and-play function of the IEEE1394 interface 105. In the case where the user pulls a cable connecting the DVC 100 to the PC 200 out of the 1394 port 1051, the IEEE1394 interface 105 automatically detects a situation where the PC 200 is disconnected from the 1394 port 1051 physically and electrically. Also, when the PC 200 is powered off, the IEEE1394 interface 105 automatically detects a situation where the PC 200 is disconnected from the 1394 port 1051 electrically. In the case where the PC 200 is disconnected from the 1394 port 1051 physically or electrically, the control unit 108 starts processing in step S213.

In step S213, the control unit 108 shifts from the 1394 mode to the main mode. After shifting to the main mode, the control unit 108 returns the USB

port 1061 to the enabled state and starts processing in step S202.

As described above, with the DVC 100 of this embodiment, by carrying out the processing procedure shown in FIG. 2, in the case where the PC 200
5 connected to the 1394 port 1051 accesses the memory card 104, the USB port 1061 is set in the disabled state and there is obtained a state where it is impossible to establish electrical connection between
10 the USB port 1061 and the PC 300. As a result, in the case where the PC 200 accesses the memory card 104 via the IEEE1394 interface 105, the PC 300 is prohibited from accessing the memory card 104 via the USB interface 106. That is, it becomes possible to
15 exclusively control external apparatuses that access the memory card 104.

Also, with the DVC 100 of this embodiment, by carrying out the processing procedure shown in FIG. 2, in the case where the PC 300 connected to the USB
20 port 1061 accesses the memory card 104, the 1394 port 1051 is set in the disabled state and there is obtained a state where it is impossible to establish electrical connection between the 1394 port 1051 and the PC 200. As a result, in the case where the PC
25 300 accesses the memory card 104 via the USB interface 106, the PC 200 is prohibited from accessing the memory card 104 via the IEEE1394

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interface 105. That is, it becomes possible to exclusively control external apparatuses that access the memory card 104.

It should be noted here that it is also
5 possible to apply the present invention to a digital video camera, a storage apparatus, or the like that exclusively controls external apparatuses that access a removable medium (such as a magnetic disk, an optical disk, or a hard disk apparatus) other than
10 the memory card 104.

The above-described preferred embodiments are merely exemplary of the present invention, and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the present invention.

15 The scope of the present invention is defined by the scope of the appended claims, and is not limited to only the specific descriptions in this specification. Furthermore, all modifications and changes belonging to equivalents of the claims are
20 considered to fall within the scope of the present invention.

CLAIMS

1. A storage apparatus comprising:
a first digital interface having a first port;
and
5 a second digital interface having a second port,
wherein the second port is set in a disabled
state if a first external apparatus connected to the
first port accesses a removable medium; and
the first port is set in the disabled state if
10 a second external apparatus connected to the second
port accesses the removable medium.
2. A storage apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein if the first port is set in the
15 disabled state, the first port is placed in a state
where electrical connection with the first external
apparatus is impossible, and
if the second port is set in the disabled state,
the second port is placed in a state where electrical
20 connection with the second external apparatus is
impossible.
3. A storage apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the first digital interface is pursuant
25 to one of an IEEE1394-1995 standard and its extended
standard.

4. A storage apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the second digital interface is
pursuant to one of a USB 1.1 standard and its
extended standard.

5

5. A storage apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the storage apparatus is a digital
video camera.

10

6. A control method applied to a storage
apparatus including a first digital interface and a
second digital interface, the first digital interface
having a first port and the second digital interface
having a second port,

15

the control method comprising the steps of:

setting the second port in a disabled state if
a first external apparatus connected to the first
port accesses a removable medium; and

setting the first port in the disabled state if
a second external apparatus connected to the second
port accesses the removable medium.

20

7. A control method according to claim 6,
wherein if the first port is set in the
disabled state, the first port is placed in a state
where electrical connection with the first external
apparatus is impossible, and

25

if the second port is set in the disabled state, the second port is placed in a state where electrical connection with the second external apparatus is impossible.

5

8. A control method according to claim 6, wherein the first digital interface is pursuant to one of an IEEE1394-1995 standard and its extended standard.

10

9. A control method according to claim 6, wherein the second digital interface is pursuant to one of a USB 1.1 standard and its extended standard.

15

10. A control method according to claim 6, wherein the storage apparatus is a digital video camera.

20

11. A storage apparatus comprising:
a first digital interface having a first port;
and
a second digital interface having a second port,
wherein if the first digital interface receives
25 a predetermined command, the second port is set in a disabled state; and
if the second digital interface receives the

predetermined command, the first port is set in the disabled state.

12. A storage apparatus according to claim 11,
5 wherein if the first port is set in the disabled state, the first port is placed in a state where electrical connection with the first external apparatus is impossible, and

if the second port is set in the disabled state,
10 the second port is placed in a state where electrical connection with the second external apparatus is impossible.

13. A storage apparatus according to claim 11,
15 wherein the first digital interface is pursuant to one of an IEEE1394-1995 standard and its extended standard.

14. A storage apparatus according to claim 11,
20 wherein the second digital interface is pursuant to one of a USB 1.1 standard and its extended standard.

15. A storage apparatus according to claim 11,
25 wherein the storage apparatus is a digital video camera.

16. A control method applied to a storage
apparatus including a first digital interface and a
second digital interface, the first digital interface
having a first port and the second digital interface
5 having a second port,

the control method comprising the steps of:

setting the second port in a disabled state if
the first digital interface receives a predetermined
command; and

10 setting the first port in the disabled state if
the second digital interface receives the
predetermined command.

17. A control method according to claim 16,
15 wherein if the first port is set in the
disabled state, the first port is placed in a state
where electrical connection with the first external
apparatus is impossible, and

if the second port is set in the disabled state,
20 the second port is placed in a state where electrical
connection with the second external apparatus is
impossible.

18. A control method according to claim 16,
25 wherein the first digital interface is pursuant
to one of an IEEE1394-1995 standard and its extended
standard.

19. A control method according to claim 16,
wherein the second digital interface is
pursuant to one of a USB 1.1 standard and its
extended standard.

5

20. A control method according to claim 16,
wherein the storage apparatus is a digital
video camera.

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FIG. 1

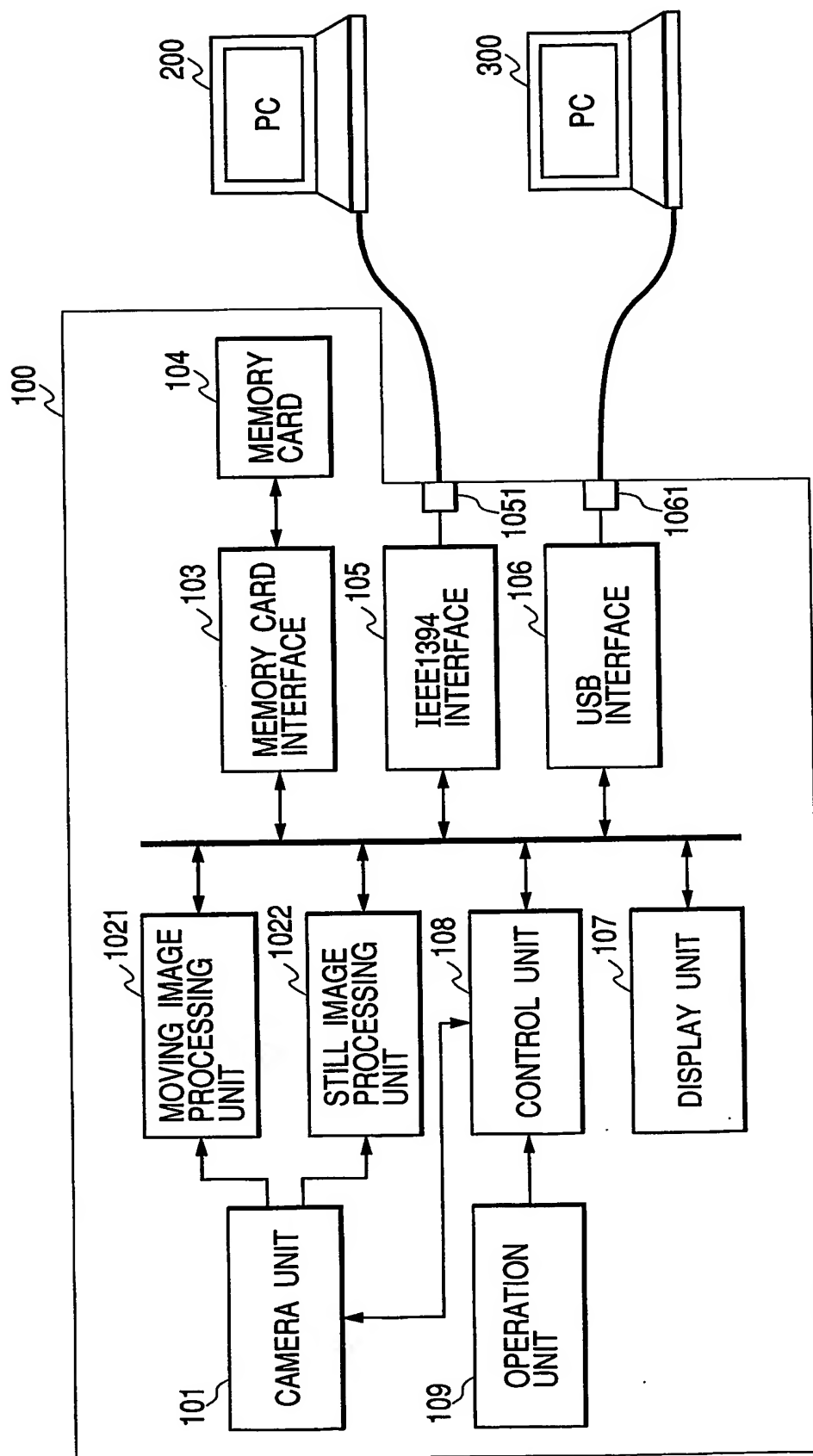
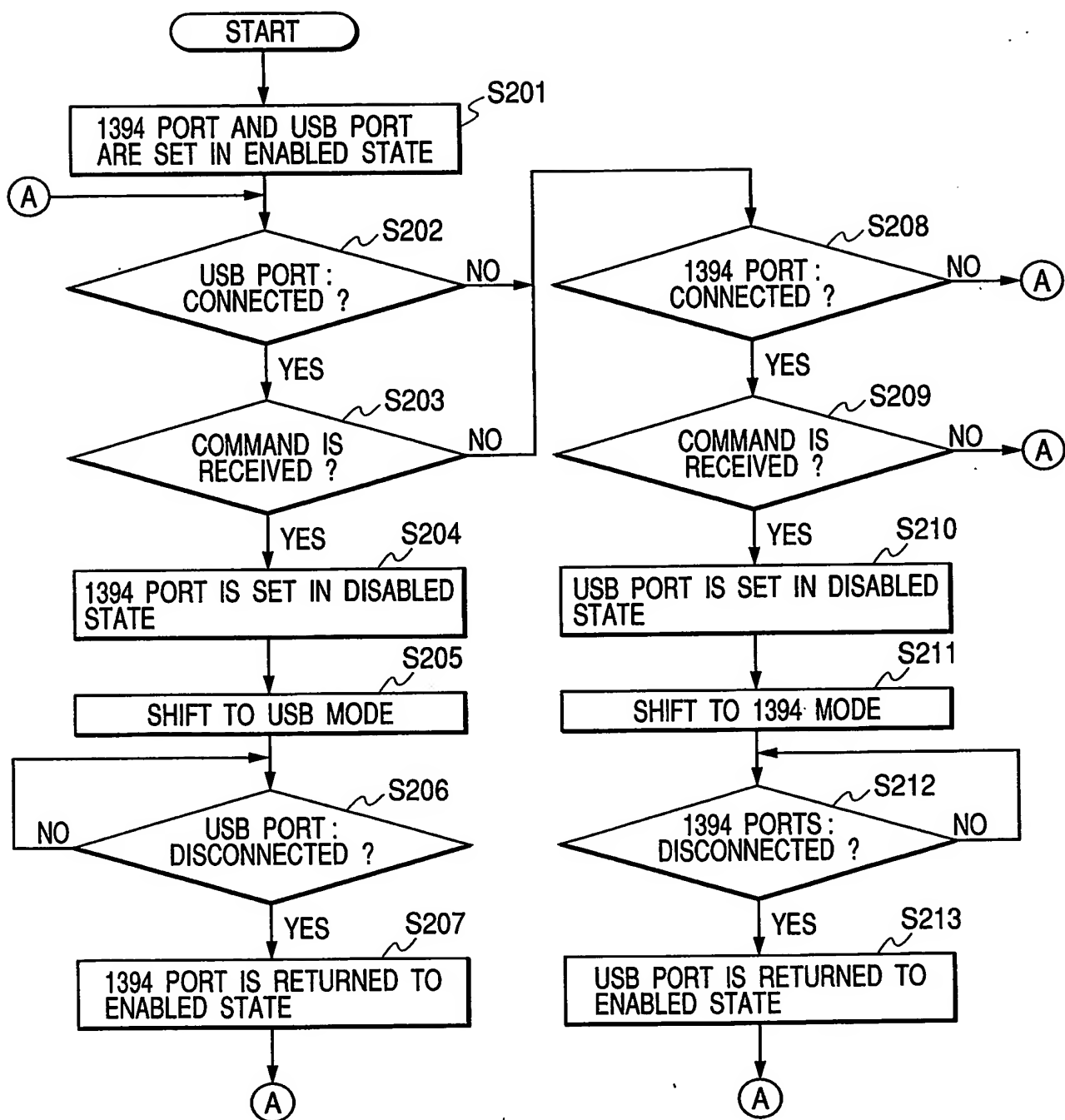


FIG. 2



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FIG. 3

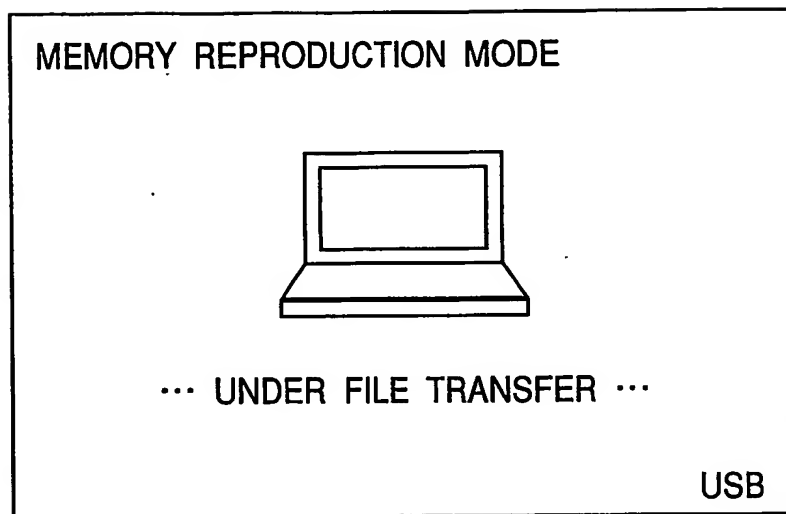
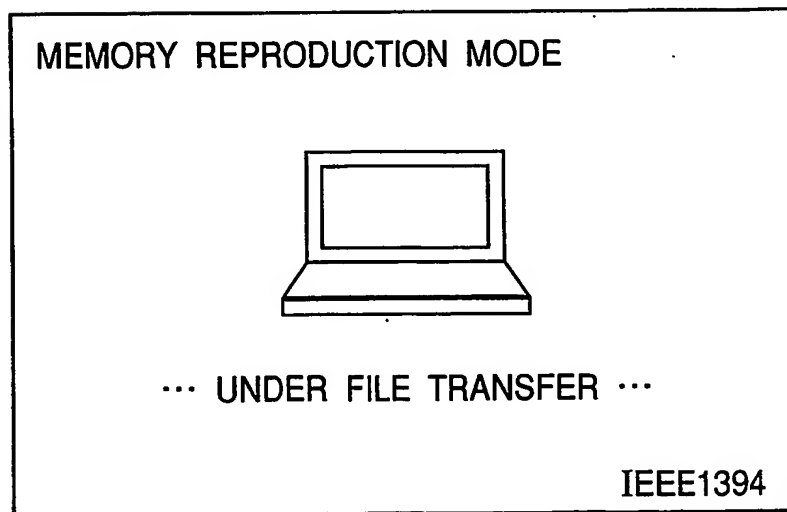


FIG. 4



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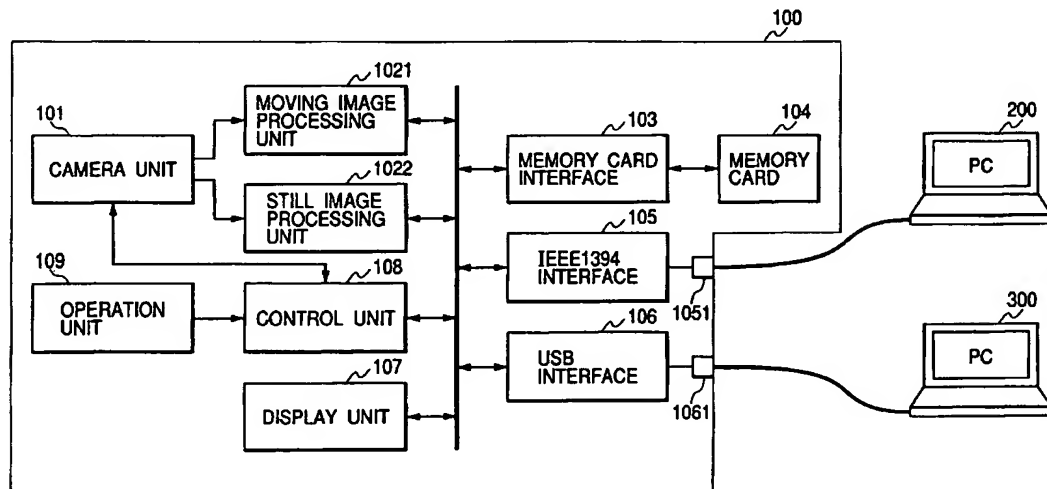
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- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): ONO, Tachio [JP/JP];
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: STORAGE APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD



(57) Abstract: To provide a storage apparatus that makes it possible to exclusively control external apparatuses that access a removable medium such as a memory card. In the case where a first external apparatus connected to a 1394 port accesses the memory card, the storage apparatus sets a USB port in a disabled state. In the case where a second external apparatus connected to the USB port accesses the memory card, the storage apparatus sets the 1394 port in the disabled state. As a result, the storage apparatus exclusively controls access to the memory card.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F3/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, A	US 2003/005188 A1 (TEHRANI BIJAN ET AL) 2 January 2003 (2003-01-02) page 2, paragraph 16 - paragraph 22 page 3, paragraph 31 - paragraph 36 abstract; figure 3	1-20
A	EP 0 751 464 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 2 January 1997 (1997-01-02) column 2, line 36 - column 3, line 32 abstract; figure 3	1-20
A	DE 199 41 742 A (VITRONIC DR ING STEIN BILDVERA) 8 March 2001 (2001-03-08) the whole document	1-20



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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 September 2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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